

Committee on Equal Opportunities
Council on Postsecondary Education
February 16, 2009

Status: *The Kentucky Plan*

The following information focuses on the Partnership Agreement and the Kentucky Plan activities since the Committee on Equal Opportunities met October 2008.

Partnership Agreement: The Office for Civil Rights forwarded a review of Kentucky's performance under the Partnership Agreement between the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Commonwealth to Governor Steven Beshear's office January 2, 2009. OCR's Assistant Secretary Stephanie Monroe, notified the Commonwealth that it is in compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and its implementing regulation with respect to the issues addressed in the Partnership Agreement. The report summarized OCR's monitoring of the commitments, detailed Kentucky's accomplishments in meeting each commitment, and described OCR's assessment of those efforts.

CEO chair Phyllis Maclin issued the following statement in response to the OCR review: "This status, of course, does not mean that we have accomplished all that we want and need to do to ensure access and success in postsecondary education, particularly for Kentucky's African American community. Those efforts remain."

The CEO also noted that the new status has no impact on the Kentucky Plan which remains in effect until a new diversity plan is developed and implemented. The committee anticipates fast tracking the diversity planning process to conclude with the presentation of a plan to the CPE in January 2010.

The 2008-10 Base Budget Realignment: The 2008-10 Executive Budget proposes a number of base budget adjustments. The impact of the adjustments is identified in the attached budget update document that was presented to the CPE at its January 16 meeting.

Appointment of New CEO Members: CPE chair John Turner appointed two new members to the CEO in December 2008. Mr. Abraham Williams, executive director of the Bowling Green Housing Authority, and Mr. Carl Rollins, state representative from the 56TH district (Fayette, Woodford, and Franklin Counties).

Appointment of Board Members to Kentucky's Public Postsecondary Institutions: CEO chair, Phyllis Maclin, forwarded a letter of support to the Executive Director of Boards and Commissions, Virginia Woodward, to include diverse representation among the membership of boards of regents and trustees during the upcoming appointments. Members of the CEO noted in its annual review of progress toward implementation of the objectives and commitments of the Kentucky Plan that several institutions (Gateway

Community and Technical College, Somerset Community and Technical College, West Kentucky Community and Technical College, and Murray State University) are devoid of representation from their African American communities.

ACT Preparation Workshops for High School Students: The Council's CEO provided funding to Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions to conduct ACT preparation workshops across the state. The purpose of the workshops was twofold:

1. Prepare high school students (11TH and 12TH graders) for the ACT exam.
2. Promote relationships between students and the institutions to positively impact recruitment efforts in the future.

The following KCTCS institutions were targeted due to large populations of African American residents:

- Hopkinsville
- Madisonville
- Owensboro
- Paducah
- Ashland
- Gateway
- Hazard
- Southeast CTC

Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program Annual Conference: Murray State University will host the 9TH Annual Statewide Conference of the Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program, June 8-9, 2009. Approximately 200 middle and junior high school students are expected to participate. Conference planning is underway.

GMSCPP Academically Proficient High School Seniors and Juniors Conference: The University of Kentucky will host the 22ND Annual Academically Proficient African American High School Senior and Junior Conference, June 12-13, 2009. Approximately 300 students, parents, and college representatives are expected to participate. Student and parent notification and conference planning is underway.

CEO Meeting Dates: The CEO meeting dates for 2009 are April 21, June 16, August 17-18 (retreat), and October 20. Meetings are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. (ET) at the Council offices in Frankfort unless otherwise noted.

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